

A TENTATIVE RECORD OF *PAPILIO DEMOLEUS MALAYANUS* WALLACE, 1865 (LEPIDOPTERA: PAPILIONIDAE) FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

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Abstract

Commercially obtained specimens of *Papilio demoleus malayanus* Wallace, 1865, ostensibly from Guadalcanal Province, Solomon Islands, are presented as a tentative new record. Further specimens are needed for confirmation.

Introduction

Papilio demoleus Linnaeus, 1758 has a wide distribution from the Middle East and throughout southern Asia to southern mainland Papua New Guinea and Australia (Smith and Vane-Wright 2010). Recently, the Southeast Asian subspecies *P. demoleus malayanus* Wallace, 1865 has spread through the Indonesian archipelago into Papua New Guinea (Tennent *et al.* 2011, Morgun and Wiemers 2012).

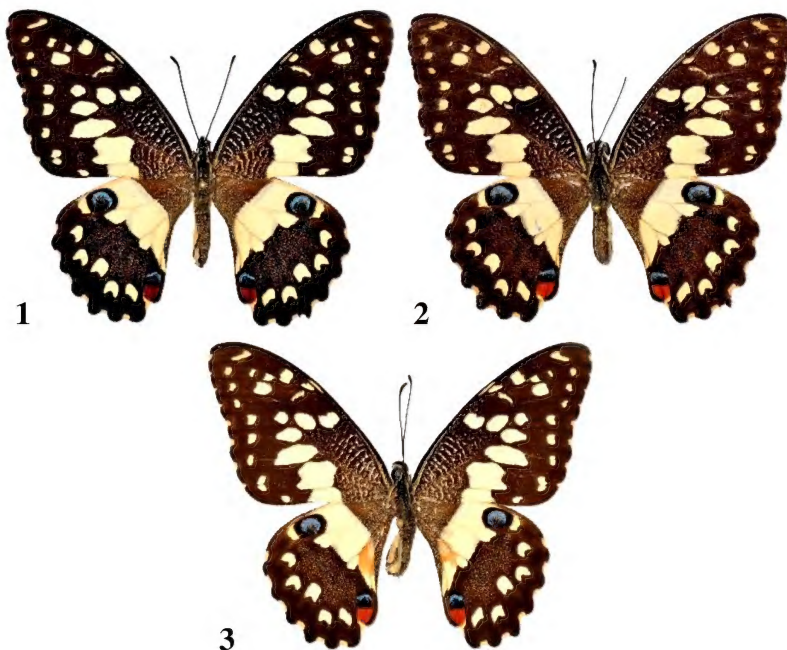
Specimens of *P. d. malayanus* obtained from a commercial source, purporting to originate from Guadalcanal Province of the Solomon Islands, are presented here as a tentative range extension.

New record

This record is based on three females of *P. demoleus malayanus* (Figs 1-3) obtained from a commercial insect dealer in Poland. Data provided with the specimens were 'Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, April 2015'. Identity of these specimens was confirmed using the key in Smith and Vane-Wright (2010).

Discussion

The record represented by these specimens is considered probably genuine – but with qualification. It is considered unlikely that they were passed off as a new distribution record for profit because *P. demoleus* forms part of the 'low value, high volume' insect trade (Collins and Morris 1986) and specimens are inexpensive. *Papilio demoleus* specimens obtained for another project also lacked geographic precision (e.g. simply 'West Java' or 'Ceram' [Indonesia]) but were still accurate to the resolution provided. For these reasons, it is concluded that the specimens presented here are evidence that *P. d. malayanus* has reached Guadalcanal Province, Solomon Islands, a conclusion supported by the presence of this taxon in nearby New Britain, New Ireland and Milne Bay Provinces, Papua New Guinea (Tennent *et al.* 2011). However, confirmation of this record is needed, making it inappropriate at present to use it to justify biosecurity measures for *P. d. malayanus* on trade pathways from the Solomon Islands.



Figs 1-3. *Papilio demoleus malayanus* specimens representing a putative record from Guadalcanal Province, Solomon Islands. Specimen (1) in author's collection; (2) and (3) in Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC), Canberra.

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You-Ning Su and Ted Edwards accepted voucher specimens forming the basis of this tentative record for deposition in the ANIC and John Tennent provided literature. Caroline Martin and Gertraud Norton assisted with departmental clearance of the manuscript. I am grateful to my wife Haliz and Albert Orr for encouraging my interest in the Lepidoptera and to Pawel Lewanth, Poland, for supplying the specimens.

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